

Husband: **JAMES ADAMS¹**
 Born: 4 October 1671 *Flushing, Queens County, New York*
 Married: 2 September 1695 Shrewsbury, Monmouth County, East Jersey
 Died: between March and 7 May 1722 Chester Township, Burlington County, NJ
 Buried: *Chester Friends' Burial Ground*, Morrestown, New Jersey
 Father: JOHN ADAMS
 Mother: ELIZABETH KENT

Wife: **ESTHER ALLEN**
 Born: 22 March 1677 Sandwich, Barnstable County, Massachusetts
 Died: before 19 November 1722 Chester, Burlington County, New Jersey
 Buried: *Chester Friends' Burial Ground*, Morrestown, New Jersey
 Father: JEDEDIAH ALLEN (3 January 1647 – 21 January 1712)
 Mother: ELIZABETH HOWLAND (1646 – >1713)

Issue:	Born:	Place:
1) JEDEDIAH ADAMS	4 July 1696	Chester Township, Burlington County, WJ
2) JOHN ADAMS	1 April 1698	Burlington County, West Jersey
3) THOMAS ADAMS	12 February 1699	Evesham, Burlington County, West Jersey
4) ELIZABETH ADAMS	c1700	<i>Flushing, Queens County, New York</i>
5) JOSEPH ADAMS	Apr – Jun 1701	Burlington County, West Jersey
6) JAMES ADAMS	c1702	Burlington, Burlington County, West Jersey
7) PATIENCE ADAMS	c1704	Burlington County, New Jersey
8) ESTHER ADAMS	c1706	Burlington County, New Jersey
9) HANNAH ADAMS	c1707	Chester Tp, Burlington County, New Jersey
10) JOHN ADAMS	10 January c1709	Burlington, Burlington County, New Jersey
11) MARGERY ADAMS	after Nov 1711	Burlington, Burlington County, New Jersey

The order of the children's births and the years were determined by the statements made by JAMES and ESTHER in their respective Wills, whether or not there was a guardian appointed, and if they died soon after the parents did. On 27 January 1693 JAMES received 250 acres from his father JOHN ADAMS which accounted for one-half of the acreage his father owned in Burlington.² Possibly for this reason, JAMES is not named in his father's last Will and Testament. JOHN had traded properties with JOHN RODMAN in 1691 and that is the only record of land in Burlington that was in JOHN'S possession in 1693. Most of the remaining acreage ended up with JAMES'S brother THOMAS.

JAMES and ESTHER married on 2 September 1695 (in margin is written 3 September 1695) at Shrewsbury Friends' Meeting House with her parents and her brother ELISHA signing their certificate. The signing ADAMS included SUSANNAH, DEBORAH, JAMES, ESTHER, and JOB.³ The first son to be named JOHN died at just a week old in 1698.

JEDEDIAH ALLEN names ESTHER ADAMS as one of his twelve living children when he signed his last Will and Testament on 15 September 1711.

JAMES and ESTHER are described as being *ministers* in the Society of Friends which seems to mean they travelled a lot to assist with the growth of the Society and to provide guidance to members living where no Meeting House had been established.⁴ On 9 April 1700 JAMES and ESTHER ADAMS transferred to *the Trustees of the Religious Society of Friends, for one acre of land lying and being on the west side of the King's highway, with all that house or building now erected, and being upon said acre of land, called the Quaker Meeting-house all that acre of land adjoining to the King's Highway on the west.* They had allowed a meeting house to be built at the western extreme of their plantation, said to be 400-acres but deeds have yet to be found to cover this acreage. The meeting house was there perhaps as early as 1685 when Burlington Meeting gave its consent to establish a meeting in Chester. The *Adams Meeting House* as it was called is thought to have been on the northwest corner facing Main Street at its intersection with Chester Avenue in Chester Town, now Morrestown. The House was located at the southeast corner of the donated acre and the rest was designated for a burial ground. The named grantees were JOSEPH HERETAGE and JOHN HOLLINSHEAD of Chester, and WILLIAM HOLLINSHEAD of Cape May, possibly the husband of his sister ELIZABETH.⁵ Built of logs, the first structure burned down in 1720 and was replaced with a stone Meeting House built in the burial yard in 1721. Land was later purchased on the other side of Main Street, opposite the Burial Ground, and a new Meeting House was completed there in 1802. The old stone house was razed and the stone reused for sheds or sold.⁶

On 4 December 1708 JAMES ADAMS and JUDAH ALLEN, both of Burlington County, yeomen, deeded to JAMES STEELMAN of Great Egg *Harbour* a 200 acre tract near that place, on *Poteonk* or Pothunk Creek. THOMAS ADAMES was a witness to ALLEN's signature.⁷ On 27 April 1721 JAMES ADAMS sold land in Chester, Burlington County to FREDERICK TOY. Not knowing the contents of the deed makes it impossible to say this is the same property, though it is the only colonial conveyance for a JAMES ADAMS in the right time period.⁸

In 1697 *Eversham* Township was created, in part, from Chester Township. The boundary issue was handled at a meeting hosted by JAMES ADAMS at his home whereby men having the authority to undertake the issue from both townships met and worked out the following agreement: the line between JOHN HOLLINSHEAD and JOHN WILLS is the bounds with *WIDDOW* ELTON's plantation being in Eversham and the rest, including JAMES's place, and one owned by JOHN ADAMS, perhaps his father, in Chester. The town of Chester assumes complete responsibility for the Cropwell and Mulberry Bridges, and the Chester delegation confirms the road from JOHN HAINES to Mulberry Bridge to be the town road and agrees to not alter its path or otherwise affect the road without first consulting with officials from Eversham Township. Twenty-one men signed the document, including JOHN and JAMES ADAMS, and it was recorded by the Court 8 May 1696.⁹ *Eversham* would drop the 'r' in a few years to become Evesham Township. JAMES ADAMS brought suit against THOMAS HOOTEN and ANTHONY FRYER in the Burlington Court of Pleas on 9 August 1697, accusing the pair of marking three of his hogs as belonging to HOOTEN. ELIZABETH ADAMS testified on her son's behalf: she heard her son, the plaintiff, ask FRYER, the defendant, who had marked his swine to which he answered that he helped THOMAS HOOTEN mark two of them. She also testified that she thought the two belonged to her son. Several others testified they saw one or two of the hogs belonging to JAMES with HOOTEN's mark on them. Some referred to the animals as a *shoat* meaning a young hog. For the defense, THOMAS FRENCH JUNIOR testified that JAMES and WILLIAM HOLLINSHEAD had killed two young sows belonging to JOHN BOURTON and JAMES's answer was that he had done so as it was his privilege, adding that he had some shoats running in the woods and, addressing THOMAS

HOOTEN and JOHN BOURTON, that they might do the same to him. JOHN BOURTON then testified to the veracity of that testimony. The jury thought the last testimony to be credible and found for the defendants HOOTEN and FRYER.¹⁰

JAMES ADAMS was appointed Tax Collector in 1696 and Constable in 1704 for Chester Township. JAMES was a member of the Grand Jury for the Burlington County Court of Quarter Sessions held on 20 February 1697, 21 February 1698, 4 September 1705 and again on 22 March 1709. *HESTER*, the wife of JAMES ADAMS, and JAMES were back in the Quarter Sessions Court on 5 December 1705; they were individually called before the Bench and *Attested*.¹¹ No additional information is given on the matter. JAMES ADAMS was commissioned justice of the Peace for Burlington County on 23 December 1715.

JAMES died a little over a year later at just 50 years old. JAMES, a *yeoman* from Chester, signed his last Will and Testament on 22 March 1722, an act witnessed by WILLIAM HOLLINSHED, JOHN HOLLINSHED, GEORGE HOLLINSHED, and JOHN KAY. He names his wife ESTHER and 10 children: JUDEDIAH, THOMAS, JOSEPH, JOHN, JAMES, ELIZABETH, ESTHER, HANNAH, MARGERY, and PATIENCE. Seven are underage while JUDEDIAH, THOMAS, and ELIZABETH have reached their maturity. JAMES left a *legacy* to his *kinswoman* *VASTIE ALLIN*. His wife was nominated as sole executor of real and personal estate. The Will was proved 22 May 1722. The inventory of his personal estate signed by SAM'LL. ATKINSON and WILLIAM HOLLINSHED on 7 May 1722 valued it at £180.19.

On 7 July 1722 ESTHER ADAMS, widow, of Chester in Burlington County, signed her last Will and Testament at just 45 years old. In it she names 10 children noting that the last 6 are underage. In order, they are JEDIDIAH, THOMAS, ELIZABETH, JOSEPH, JOHN, JAMES, ESTHER, HANNAH, MARGERY, and PATIENCE. Her bequests include both real estate and personal property, notably a silver spoon. She nominates her brother-in-law THOMAS FRENCH and her brother JUDAH ALLEN to be executors. Her signing was witnessed by WILLIAM HOLLINSHED (again, probably the husband of JAMES'S sister ELIZABETH), JOSEPH HERITAGE, and JOHN KAY. The Will was proved 23 November 1722.

The date of the extracted inventory is 19 November 1722, and the total value of her estate was £288.15. This includes *bonds and debts* valued at £67.9.4; an *old negro man*; and *sundry other things as smith's tools, farm implements, and hay, etc* valued at £30.12.7. SAMUEL COLES and JOSHUA WRIGHT signed this document. On 14 December 1722 the following statement was filed with the Court: *An Inventory of the Consideration of the Plantation Late of ESTHER ADAMS, deceased, which NATHAN ALLEN bought, being as followeth, vizt. £100 to be paid Dec. 14 next, £100 the same day in 1724, and the last £100 Dec. 14, 1725.*¹² *NATHAN* is ESTHER'S brother NATHANIEL ALLEN.

The unusual timing of their deaths, being just six months apart, at a relatively young age, could be indicative of some sort of communicable disease that passed through the area. Their daughter ESTHER is also thought to have died in 1722. While it has yet to be verified, they were probably buried in the *Chester Friends' Burial Ground* next to the Adams Meeting House in Morrestown on the land they donated to the Society.

THOMAS FORD was appointed guardian of their daughter HANNAH and THOMAS ADAMS was appointed guardian of their son JOHN on 15 February 1725. ESTHER'S brother JUDAH ALLEN of Evesham Township, besides being named as her executor, was appointed guardian of MARGERY, *an orphan under 14 years of age*, on 12 November 1725. ESTHER had no guardian as she died in

1722. That JAMES and PATIENCE did not have guardians appointed probably means they were 21 by February 1725, i.e., they were born between February 1702 and February 1704, which allows for JOSEPH'S birth around May 1701. It is possible that, if a person was within a certain number of months, perhaps 12, of reaching majority, such an appointment was not needed.

In a fortuitous find, or perhaps an unrelated one, JUDAH ALLEN and THOMAS FRENCH, the executors of the estate of FENWICK ADAMS, gentleman, deceased, of Fenwick's Grove in Salem County, paid *MATHEW ROBINSON for the schooling of MARGERY ADAMS, ELIZABETH FORD, "also for tabling J^N. ADAMS at school and y^e Diet of HANNAH ADAMS"* according to a statement filed 9 January 1725. FENWICK is proving to be rather elusive. While this does not prove a connection, there are other points to consider: first, the named executors are the same as those named by ESTHER ADAMS in her Will; second, THOMAS FRENCH is her brother-in-law and FENWICK's co-executor; third, JUDAH ALLEN is ESTHER's brother, co-executor, and guardian of her daughter MARGERY while JUDAH ALLEN is FENWICK's co-executor who has a bill paid for MARGERY's education by the estate; fourth, FENWICK's executors pay a bill owed to SAMUEL ATKINSON and that name appears on the inventory of JAMES ADAMS's estate; fifth, HANNAH and JOHN ADAMS had guardians appointed for them and HANNAH and J^N.ADAMS had some of their living expenses paid by FENWICK's estate; and sixth, MARGERY's schooling was paid for before January 1725 and JUDAH ALLEN was appointed her guardian in November 1725.

Issue:

- 1) JEDEDIAH ADAMS: married MARGARET CHRISTIAN on 29 May 1720 at the Haddonfield Monthly Meeting in Haddon Township, Camden County, New Jersey. Haddonfield MM oversaw Evesham MM until 1759. He was a cooper. On 14 September 1725 JEDEDIAH bought 204 acres on Pensauken Creek in Chester Township from THOMAS ADAMS *of Philadelphia*, presumably his uncle.¹³ This he sold to PHILIP WALLIS on 9/10 June 1727. He died before 31 March 1731 in Evesham Township, Burlington County, New Jersey as JUDAH ALLEN received letters of administration for his estate on that date after his wife MARGARET declined to act.¹⁴
- 2) JOHN ADAMS: died 7 April 1698, just 6 days old.
- 3) THOMAS ADAMS: married HANNAH SHARP on 1 October 1720 at Haddonfield Monthly Meeting in Camden County, New Jersey (or under their authority with ceremony at Evesham MM). On 21 February 1729, THOMAS ADAMS *of Philadelphia* deeded to his nephew THOMAS ADAMS, a plantation in Chester Township, according to the recital in a deed dated 30 December 1734 given by THOMAS. He died 1786 in Chester Township, Burlington County.
- 4) ELIZABETH ADAMS: Married THOMAS MOORE. He had a tavern *on Main Street below Union* in Morrestown.¹⁵ ELIZABETH died in Chester, Burlington County, New Jersey.
- 5) JOSEPH ADAMS: may have drowned.
- 6) JAMES ADAMS: may have been the second son to be named JAMES; (*or*) the other being born in 1695 and dying in 1696.
- 7) PATIENCE ADAMS:
- 8) ESTHER ADAMS: died between July and December 1722 as she was living when her mother wrote her Will.

- 9) HANNAH ADAMS: married JOHN BUZBY.
- 10) JOHN ADAMS: married RACHEL BURR at Haddonfield Monthly Meeting in Haddon Township, Camden County in 1732.
- 11) **MARGERY ADAMS**: married **ARTHUR BORRADAILE** on 17 April 1731 in Burlington. Continued in separate file

Notes

The number of children named on Ancestry is 22 with 5 being born in 1695 that being before their parents married and the first born before her mother! The posted information is so random, undocumented and sketchy that it all needs to be verified by primary sources. The duplicated, trebled, and quadrupled names have been combined with conflicting information denoted by the (*or*). Those listed that are definitely wrong, excluding the numerous duplicates, are:

HANNAH ADAMS	15 December 1675	Flushing, Queens County, New York
DEBORAH ADAMS	7 March 1678	Flushing, Queens County, New York
JOHN ADAMS	10 June 1680	Flushing, Queens County, New York
ABIGAIL ADAMS	2 November 1682	Flushing, Queens County, New York
THOMAS ADAMS	12 November 1684	Flushing, Queens County, New York

¹ Much of the information comes from Ancestry and FamilySearch biographies, with some follow-up on Find-A-Grave. Given the poor quality of these postings, verification of every -up referenced source is needed. Primary research is appropriately referenced. Also Isaac Horner, "John Adams Family, of Mass., N.Y. & N.J." blog post 13 June 2008; <https://johnadamsofnewyork.blogspot.com>

² New Jersey Secretary of State's Office, Deeds, Surveys and Commissions, ca. 1650 – 1856; West Jersey Deeds, B, Folio 528; housed at New Jersey State Archives. Early Land Records Database at <https://wwwnet-dos.state.nj.us>.

³ John E. Stillwell. "The Quaker Records" from Historical and Genealogical Miscellany, Volume VI" (reprint, New Orleans: Shrewsbury Historical Society; 1975) p. 58.

⁴ Asa M. Stackhouse, Speech given on 9 February 1906 at Morrestown, Burlington County, New Jersey "A Retrospect of Colonial Times in Burlington County," (Moorestown, NJ, Settle Press; 1906) p. 8.pp. 24, 25.

⁵ New Jersey Secretary of State's Office, Deeds, Surveys and Commissions, ca. 1650 – 1856; West Jersey Deeds, GG, Folio 274; housed at New Jersey State Archives. Early Land Records Database at <https://wwwnet-dos.state.nj.us>.

⁶ Damon Tavaryanas, "The New Jersey Quaker Meeting House: a Typology and Inventory; a Thesis in Historic Preservation," presented to University of Pennsylvania faculty, 1993, p. 233 – 238; Jerseyman (pseudonym) "Settlements of Friends' Meetings in New Jersey," History Now and Then, 3 August 2011; <http://jerseyman-historynowandthen.blogspot.com>, accessed 31 January 2019.

⁷ Peter Stemmer, *New Jersey Colonial Conveyances: 1660 – 1780*, West Jersey Deeds, Book I-K, p. 493; West Jersey History Project, available at <http://www.westjerseyhistory.org/docs/cc/index.shtml>.

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- ⁸ New Jersey Secretary of State's Office, Deeds, Surveys and Commissions, ca. 1650 – 1856; West Jersey Deeds, E-F, Folio 189; housed at New Jersey State Archives. Early Land Records Database at <https://wwwnet-dos.state.nj.us>.
- ⁹ H. Clay Reed and George J. Miller (eds), "The Burlington Court Book of West New Jersey, A Record of Quaker Jurisprudence, 1680 – 1709," *American Legal Records*, Volume 5 (Washington, D.C., American Historical Association; 1944 – reprinted Baltimore, MD, Genealogical Publishing Company, Inc; 1998) pp. 186 – 187. Digital version at JSTOR.org and www.westjerseyhistory.com.
- ¹⁰ *supra*. Reed and Miller, *Burlington Court Book* .pp. 195 – 197.
- ¹¹ *supra*. Reed and Miller, *Burlington Court Book* . pp. 191, 201, 300 – 301, 306, 336.
- ¹² William Nelson. Documents Relating to the Colonial History of the State of New Jersey, First Series, Volume 23, Calendar of New Jersey Wills, 1670 – 1730;1: 2 – 4 (Patterson, NJ; 1901). Digital copy at Archive.org. Linda Spence, "Ancestors of John Harry Spence" Generation No. 09: 486. James Addams and 487. Esther Allen; <https://www.genealogy.com/ftm/s/p/e/Linda-Spence-/GENE4-0010.htm>
- ¹³ New Jersey Secretary of State's Office, Deeds, Surveys and Commissions, ca. 1650 – 1856; West Jersey Deeds, D, Folio 99; housed at New Jersey State Archives. Early Land Records Database at <https://wwwnet-dos.state.nj.us>.
- ¹⁴ "John Adams Family of Mass., N.Y., & N.J." (13 June 2008); <https://johnadamsofnyenynj.blogspot.com/2008/06/john-adam-family-of-mass-ny-nj.html>. This and several other facts pertaining to the children are from this source.
- ¹⁵ *supra*. Stackhouse, "A Retrospect ..." pp. 24, 25.